

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SCA-01 SIG-01 SNM-02 L-03  
SCS-03 DHA-02 H-01 NSC-05 DEAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0891  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2620

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, TECH, ENRG, SW  
SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REPROCESSING POLICY

REFS: (A) STOCKHOLM 2178, (B) STATE 108088(NOTAL),  
(C) STATE 139247 (NOTAL)

1. THREE IMPORTANT FIGURES FROM THE COALITION GOVERNMENT JOINED US FOR LUNCH JUNE 16 TO DISCUSS NUCLEAR MATTERS. THEY WERE UNDERSECRETARY OF LABOR CARL THAM, COORDINATOR FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY AND MEMBER OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION; MODERATE MP ANDERS WIJLMAN, ALSO A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION; AND CARL BILDT, COORDINATOR FOR THE MODERATE PARTY. (FROM OUR SIDE IT WAS CHARGE, POLCOUNS, ECONCOUNS AND SCIATT.)
2. THE SWEDES REFERRED TO THE NUCLEAR POWER CONTROVERSY IN SWEDEN, ITS POTENTIAL FOR AFFECTING THE TENURE OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, AND THE POSSIBLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON SWEDEN OF THE ANNOUNCED US POLICY ON FJUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING.
3. WIJLMAN AND THAM MENTIONED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED REPROCESSING CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SWEDISH NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY COMPANY AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT-OWNED COGEMA. THE CONTRACT WILL COVER THE REPROCESSING OF ABOUT 70 TONS  
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OF WASTE FUEL FROM BARSEBACK II AND RINGHALS III FROM NOW THROUGH 1979. THE FIRST REPROCESSING SHIPMENT WILL NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1979. THE SWEDES ARE CONCERNED THAT THE UNITED STATES MAY NOT APPROVE SWEDEN'S REQUEST FOR RETRANSFER OF SPENT FUEL TO FRANCE. THEIR DOUBT ON THIS ISSUE IS BASED ON DR. JOSEPH S. NYE'S STATEMENT AT SALZBURG IN MAY (WIJLMAN AND THAM WERE PRESENT) AND ON THE

AMPLIFICATION OF DR. NYE'S STATEMENT CONTAINED REF B.

4. THE SWEDES DESCRIBE THE POLITICAL ISSUE AS FOLLOWS:  
ACCORDING TO SWEDISH LAW (THE SO-CALLED CONDITIONS ACT  
OF MAY 1, 1977), THE OWNERS OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS MUST  
HAVE A VALID CONTRACT FOR REPROCESSING NUCLEAR FUEL AND  
DEMONSTRATE HOW AND WHERE SAFE FINAL STORAGE OF THE  
REPROCESSED WASTES MAY TAKE PLACE. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
REPROCESSING AND DISPOSAL BEING MADE BY THE OWNERS OF  
RINGHALS III AND BARSEBACK II ARE TO BE "JUDGED" BY THE  
GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS. ALTHOUGH THE  
CONTRACT WITH COGENA MAY BE "ACCEPTABLE," SOME SWEDISH  
NUCLEAR OPPONENTS IN THE PARLIAMENT MAY CLAIM THAT THE  
UNITED STATES MAY NOT GIVE PERMISSION TO RETRANSFER SPENT  
FUEL TO FRANCE, THUS RENDERING THE ARRANGEMENT WITH COGEMA  
UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED. THE SWEDISH  
NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM COULD BE STOPPED BY US DENIAL OF PER-  
MISSION TO RETRANSFER. THE PROBABLE RESULT WOULD BE A SPLIT IN THE  
COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH CONSEQUENT LOSS OF ABILITY TO GOVERN.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SODER WILL VISIT WASHINGTON FROM JUNE 29  
TO JULY 1 (REF C) AND PLANS TO RAISE THE REPROCESSING POLICY  
WITH THE SECRETARY TO SEEK ASSURANCE OR AT MINIMUM A POSITIVE  
SIGNAL THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONSIDER EXPEDITIOUSLY AND  
FAVORABLY A SWEDISH REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO RETRANSFER SPENT  
NUCLEAR FUEL TO FRANCE. SOME ASSURANCE OR ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS  
ISSUE, ACCORDING TO WOJKMAN, THAM AND BILDT, IS ESSENTIAL FOR THESE  
REASONS:

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(A) US REFUSAL TO CONSIDER OR DENIAL OF PERMISSION TO RETRANSFER  
SPENT FUEL MAY POSSIBLY LEAD TO A CRISIS IN THE COALITION GOVERN-  
MENT THAT COULD CAUSE ITS ULTIMATE DOWNFALL,

(B) US REFUSAL OR DENIAL COULD HALT THE SWEDISH NUCLEAR POWER  
PROGRAM (REACTORS 7 TO 10) AND WE COULD BE ACCUSED OF INDIRECT  
INTERFERENCE IN SWEDISH INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND

(C) THE SWEDES WILL BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS OF A REPROCESSING CONTRACT  
WITH COGEMA IN NOVEMBER FOR NUCLEAR WASTES THAT MAY BE GENERATED  
IN THE 1980'S. AN EXPRESSION OF THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD SWEDISH  
REPROCESSING RETRANSFER REQUESTS PRIOR TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS  
CRITICAL.

6. COMMENT: THESE THREE POLITICAL EXPERTS WERE STATING  
THE SAME CONCERN ABOUT US POLICY THAT WE HEARD ON MAY 18  
FROM OUR MFA FRIENDS, BUT THE POLITICAL TYPES COULD  
SPEAK MORE OPENLY OF THEIR FEARS FOR BREAK-UP OF THE  
PRESENT COALITION OVER THIS ISSUE--AND THEY DID. THEY STATED  
CANDIDLY THAT IF FOREIGN MINISTER SODER DID NOT  
GET SOME STATEMENT OF REASSURANCE FROM THE SECRETARY THAT

SWEDEN'S REQUESTS FOR EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR WASTE WOULD BE FAVORABLY CONSIDERED, THEN THE USG POSITION WOULD BECOME PART OF THE DEBATE THIS FALL ON NUCLEAR POLICY, AND THE DANGER OF THE GOVERNMENT NOT SURVIVING WAS SIGNIFICANT. POSSIBLY THEY OVER-ESTIMATE THE PERIL, BUT WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BOTH THEY AND THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY ARE FEELING VERY STRONGLY THE NEED FOR SOME USG STATEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE OF THE NEED FOR THE USG TO MAINTAIN A FIRM FRONT WHILE OUR NUCLEAR POLICY IS BEING ELABORATED AND IMPLEMENTED. WE DO BELIEVE, AS STATED IN STOCKHOLM 2178, THAT THE UNIQUENESS OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEM IN SWEDEN, AND SWEDEN'S EXEMPLARY RECORD ON NON-PROLIFERATION, ENTITLE IT TO AN EXCEPTION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT DESERVES THIS MUCH CONSIDERATION FROM THE USG. THEREFORE FROM THE STOCKHOLM VIEWPOINT--AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT LARGER VIEWS MUST BE CONSIDERED--WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY MAKE A POSITIVE STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER TO MRS. CONFIDENTIAL

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SODER.  
PERRY

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## Message Attributes

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